(b) the details of measures taken by the Government to prevent the felling of trees and to control and prevent fires in forests; and

(c) the details of financial assistance given to Uttar Pradesh during the last three years for the development of forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) An area of 39,281.73 hectares is reported to have been burnt by fire in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years. Information with regard to loss of forest due to felling of trees is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments from time to time for protection of forests against felling of trees. Some of these guidelines are as follows:—

(i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) To set apart 4 per cent of the geographical areas as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks biosphere reserves etc.

Measures taken by the Government to control and prevent fires in forests include clearance and maintenance of fire lines, controlled burning along roads and paths, seeking cooperation of the people through publicity and extinguishing forests fires with the help of counter fires and implements including hand tools.

(c) An amount of Rs. 8755.00 lakhs has been given to Uttar Pradesh as Central assistance for afforestation schemes during the last 3 years.

Extension of Term of the Chairman, Bank of Baroda

2427. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to extend the term of office of the Chairman of Bank of Baroda, if so, for how many years;

(b) whether it is a practice not to extend the term of any executive beyond 60 years, if so, what were the compelling reasons for this extension; and

(c) whether Government have received reports of the Central Vigilance Commission and Reserve Bank of India against the present Chairman, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (cb) After taking all relevant factors into consideration, Shri Premjit Singh has been reappointed for a further period of one year as the Chairman and Managing Director of Bank of Baroda.

(c) The Chairman and Managing Director of Bank of Baroda does not figure in the records of Central Vigilance Commission, Reserve Bank's investigations into the complaints against the present Chairman of Bank of Baroda reveal that they were of too general a nature and not borne out by facts.

भारत में विश्व बैंक द्वारा वित्त पोषित परियोजनाओं की धीमी गति

@2428. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान एशिया